

18 December 1972

The Director
FBIS
Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

Dear Sir:

1. Pursuant to telephone conversations with [redacted] of your organization, I am requesting your consideration that I be given access to the FBIS publication "Developments".

2. As explained in the above reference conversations, I am working to attempt to bring back to life the Inter-American Broadcasting System (IABS), which ceased operations with the advent of World War II. At that time I was the director of the organization, affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting System, and headquartered in San Francisco (the original letterhead is attached). The IABS was created to provide for the exchange of radio programs between the U. S. and Latin America. This was done, starting with Guatemala as a pilot operation, expanded to the rest of Central America, then Mexico and finally, agreement had been reached with Brazil at the time operations ceased.

3. Over the years, as you are aware, no significant effort was made to rejuvenate the operation. I could no longer afford the role of Don Quixote when I returned to inactive duty in the Marine Corps. Instead I became special assistant to the Director of Federal Airways, an office of the then CAA with responsibility for Alaskan communications. From there, in 1950, I joined the organization as electronics advisor to the then Chief of the Procurement and Supply Division, a part of the Special Support Staff headed by George Meloon. I retired from the organization on 31 July 1970.

4. This past year, retirement got the best of me, so I decided to see what I could do to get the Americans, North, Central and South, to start talking to each other. This was not done with any thought of picking up an old career (64 is a little late for that) but because I believe now, as I did in the 1930's that the ultimate salvation of our way of life is a closely integrated "neighborhood" of the American countries acting as one in the international community. With this in mind, I took steps to bring myself up to date, technically and economically. I then paid my respects to Ambassador Jova, the U. S.

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representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) and the radio chief, Mr. Morales. A recent far reaching development in the communications satellite field brought me together with Fairchild Industries.

5. In seeking a logical entity to reorganize and operate the IABS, I settled on the General Tire and Rubber Company, who has significant interests in Latin America as well as broadcasting expertise through its wholly owned broadcasting subsidiary, RKO-General. Discussions are currently underway.

6. I have been appalled at the lack of vision and knowledge on the part of those in the OAS I have met so far. It was for this reason that I contacted [redacted] citing the dearth of factual, accurate information on communications and their problems in the Latin America of today. They brought to my attention the publication "Developments", pointing out however, that it was restricted to "Official Use Only". They suggest this letter as an attempt to get special dispensation for access to the publication.

7. As I have previously stated, I am not promoting anything for myself, but for my country. On my retirement income I cannot afford numerous costly publications, nor can I afford extensive travels. I merely want to equip myself with the knowledge to be able to present a strong, accurate plea, that the proposal to re-institute radio/TV program exchanges between the American states be given the attention and support it should have. Without this facility to communicate, person-to-person, goodneighborliness, as called for in the charter of the OAS, cannot exist. Recent occurrences in Latin America indicate that time is running out.

3. Forgive this long dissertation.

9. A favorable consideration of this request for access to "Developments" will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. F. Welch

Attachment

102-730089

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TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	<input type="text"/> OGC		
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ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	

Remarks:

Jim: This is the complete package on Welch that we discussed this morning; appreciate your returning it with your comments.

Based on what you said this morning Welch could make a case of it should he want to. Again, the publication in question (copy attached) is "technically" UNCLASSIFIED. We are giving it away to selected individuals or organizations and I don't see how we can indulge in preferential treatment under the Freedom of Info Act. I believe we are vulnerable.

FBIS LGR, Rm 401, Key

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NOTE ATTACHED TO LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR DATED 18 DECEMBER 1972